

Monday: 09/11/20

Romans 12:6

As we consider the Gifts mentioned in the book of Romans we need to understand two vital things. The first is that gifts are given and not earned. The second is that the gift is something God, through the Holy Spirit, has chosen for us. Not one that we would prefer or desire.

The gift of Prophecy is an important one. it will be given according to our level or strength of our faith. So it is perhaps rarely given as a persons faith needs to be strong.

The best way of describing this is to say one is forth-telling. Which means sharing the word of God with someone at a time it applies perfectly

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Tuesday: 10/11/20

Romans 12:7

The gift of service or ministry is one that many want near them but few are ready to take on. It is a difficult gift as it means putting the needs of others before themselves.

In /john 13 we read of how Jesus showed us how this gift works. By putting on a towel and than washing the feet of the disciples he enacted the act of selfless ministry. The Monarch of England once did still act every December.

A challenge to any who are in ministry today would be to ask if they would be willing to wash the feet of their congregation.

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Wednesday: 11/11/20

Romans 12:7

The oldest institution in history would be teaching. This gift is vital for Christians in the same way that healthy food is to the body. We can go without healthy instructions; but will suffer spiritually if we go for too long.

Teaching needs to come directly from the Holy Word of God. It needs to be expressed and displayed. To those who hear instructions they will need to feel the power of the Word in the teachers voice. A passive voice will give no power. Secondly the lesson needs to be displayed. If the lesson is to be believed the one teaching needs to be living by example.

Oddly there is a counter balance to this. A teacher needs to themselves and not rely on props.

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Thursday: 12/11/20

Romans 12:8

Encouragement is not as easy as it sounds. It can be challenging to encourage someone when they are in the depths of depression. I know someone who has lived there for so long that they now how a negative reply to every word of encouragement I give them.

This gift can be expressed in three ways. The first is encouragement. The second cautionary and the third is restorative. To encourage is to build up. As with cautionary is to advice someone of dangers they may be heading towards in their life. While restorative works on the future someone has through Jesus and does not linger in the past.

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Friday: 13/11/20

Romans 12:8

For some the term altruistic giving is an oxymoron. To give without any sense of receiving something in return is in conflict in a world that constantly wants to now what quid pro quo will take place.

Someone with this gift will give freely, gladly and often without being asked. And just like ministry, everyone wants a giver around but is not eager to be blessed with this gift.

To enact this unique gift all that is needed is give. I don't mean money alone. Time spent sharing a meal with someone is an excellent way of giving. Jesus had a busy schedule and teaching ministry. Yet he always made time to be able to break bread with others.

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Saturday: 14/11/20

Romans 12:8

They say it is lonely at the top. Well it is also quite lonely and dangerous at the front. Leadership is not an easy gift. And not for the faint hearted.

The Bible portrays true leadership as a shepherd who not only leads his flock but also is there to defend them and care for their every need.

This one gift could embody all the other gifts. The leader is to teach by example. Encourage through understanding empathy. Give freely of their time and resources as needed. As well as forth-tell the word to those who need it most. And all done with an altruistic attitude. Not an easy gift.

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Lead On



Once more into the breach good friends.
And we will make this day a great...

What's that?
The organ has a broken pipe?
And the Organist refuses to play till it's fixed?
Right we'll meet with the Building committee.
And make plans to fix it.

Once more into the breach good friends.
And we will make this day a...

Hang on, you said what?
The Building Committee won't meet us?
They say their dispute over catering hasn't been resolved?
Right we'll meet with the Kitchen Staff and sort this out.
As soon as we can. But right now it's.

Once more into the breach good friends.
And we will make this...

You say the Kitchen Staff walked out?
Something to do with a mouse in the kitchen.
And the fact they can't get someone to remove it?
So we need to get an Elder to do the job.
Of course, that shouldn't be a problem. So it's.

Once more into the breach good friends.
And we will make...

Elders Retreat? What Elders Retreat?
Right the one where all the Elders Retreat from Church.
Leaving nobody to deal with the mouse.
Leaving the kitchen problem unresolved.
Leaving the Building Committee having lunch elsewhere.
Leaving the Organ still unrepaired.
Leaving the Organist still at home. So can we...

Once more into the breach good friends.
And we will...

What's that?
Right a mouse trap.
Okay hand it to me and...
Lead on...

MJ Flack

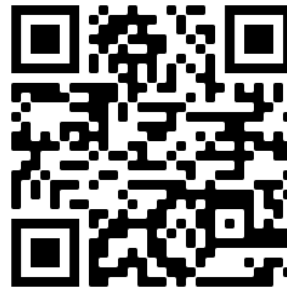
Bowenfels Presbyterian Church



***We believe in the Bible over all of life
and that Salvation is: In Christ alone,
by Grace alone, through Faith alone.***

Our Church Website

<http://bowenfelspresbyterianparish.org.au>



Affiliate Website

Benediction

<http://benediction.org.au>

Six days to Sunday



Stepping Stones of Faith

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